Rare Plants of the Ozark Plateau. A Field Identification Guide. By BEVERLY J. ROEDNER, DAVID A. HAMILTON, and KEITH E. EVANS. 238 pp. North Central Forest Exp. Station, U.S. Forest Service, 1992 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. 1978. Free from publisher.

This pocket-sized book will interest California's botanists not so much for its subject matter as for its optimism, pertinent ideas, and purpose. "The main purpose of this guide is to stimulate you—the amateur botanist—to look for these plants and provide notes on them and their associated species, and on the habitat in which they are found. Such information will help public land managers formulate plans to ensure the preservation of these rare plants . . . . We present this book with a different message. We hope this guide will stimulate your interest in searching for, identifying, and reporting findings of those plant species that are *least* likely to be encountered on an average outing" (p. 1).

The 103 species selected are located verbally in Missouri (not mapped) and described in a perceptive way morphologically and by habitat on one page faced by an excellent line drawing. Endangered status is given. Species are arranged in groups characteristic of woodlands, glades, wet lowlands, aquatic habitats, and prairies.

The Swiss in a somewhat different vein have published a beautifully color-illustrated book on their legally protected plants (Landolt, Geschützte Pflanzen in der Schweiz. 1970. Reviewed by Major, Ecology 53:368. 1972).

Perhaps organized botanists in California could produce something similar in conjunction with the federal agencies that manage most of our lands where native plants occur—the U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Defense Dept., and with the corresponding state agencies such as the Division of Forestry, Beaches and Parks, Caltrans, and even with large private landholders such as Southern Pacific, Pacific Gas & Electric, banks, and ranchers. Or should the more or less organized botanists concentrate on the urgent and primary job of keeping a modern flora of California modern and in print?—JACK MAJOR, Botany Department, University of California, Davis 95616.